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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior listings.

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of forming an axle assembly comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a cylindrical hollow member having an end portion;
- b) forming the end portion to provide a first generally circular end in cross-section,
- c) forming a section of the cylindrical hollow member into a ~~multi-wall-thickness~~ polygonal cross-section section; and
- d) welding a preformed kingpin boss to the generally circular end.

2. (WITHDRAWN) The method according to claim 1, further including the step of bending the hollow portion to a desired shape subsequent to step c).

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED AND WITHDRAWN) The method according to claim 1, further including the step of:

- e) inserting a formable bulkhead into a cavity of the hollow member prior to step b).

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 1, ~~wherein said step b) includes~~ further comprising the step of:

- e) swaging the ~~multi-wall-thickness~~ polygonal cross-section section into a generally frustroconical shape subsequent to said step c).

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 1, further including the steps of swaging the hollow member into a ~~the~~ generally polygonal cross-section section after said step a).

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6. (WITHDRAWN) The method according to claim 1, further including the steps of:
a1) inserting a bulkhead into a cavity of the hollow member prior to said step b); and
a2) simultaneously swaging the hollow member and bulkhead into a generally polygonal cross-section after said step a1) and prior said step b).

7.- 18. (CANCELLED)

19. (NEW) The method according to claim 1, further including the step of:
e) forming a section of the cylindrical hollow member into a multi-wall thickness section.

20. (NEW) The method according to claim 1, wherein said step a) further comprises:
providing the cylindrical hollow member with a preformed multi-wall thickness section.

21. (NEW) The method according to claim 1, wherein said step c) further comprises:
forming the polygonal cross-section section into a substantially rectangular cross-section section.

22. (NEW) The method according to claim 1, wherein said step c) further comprises:
forming the polygonal cross-section section into a substantially rectangular cross-section having a height to width ratio of approximately 1.2.

23. (NEW) The method according to claim 1, wherein said step d) is performed subsequent to said step c).

24. (NEW) The method according to claim 1, further including the step of:
e) forming a section of the cylindrical hollow member into a multi-wall thickness section, the cylindrical hollow member having a constant outer diameter.